AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically monitoring at least one media peripheral via a communication network, the method comprising:

automatically identifying by a first system, at a first location, the at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to one or both of the first system and/or a second system, the second system at a second location;

automatically establishing a communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral;

automatically determining authorization for monitoring of the at least one media peripheral using at least one digital certificate;

automatically monitoring, by the first system, ~~at least one~~a plurality of status parameters of the at least one media peripheral, if the authorization is successful, wherein the plurality of status parameters comprises at least two of a battery level, an "on/off" indication, an amount of storage used, an amount of storage remaining, a "within range" indication, a software version, a model number, a serial number, and a certificate ID; and

automatically responding, by the first system, to a state of the ~~at least one~~plurality of status parameters, if the authorization is successful.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one of a digital camera, a personal computer, a digital camcorder, a MP3 player, a mobile multi-media gateway, a home juke-box, and a personal digital assistant.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises a processor running at least one of media capture software and media player software.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the communication link is established via a wired connection.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the communication link is established via a wireless connection.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~at least one~~plurality of status parameters ~~comprises~~consists of the following: a battery level, an "on/off" indication, an amount of storage used, an amount of storage remaining, a "within range" indication, a software version, a model number, a serial number, and a certificate ID.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one media peripheral is co-located with respect to the first system.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one media peripheral is co-located with respect to the second system.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a set-top-box based media processing system.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a personal computer based media processing system.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a television based media processing system.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the establishing, the monitoring, and the responding are accomplished periodically over time.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the establishing, the monitoring, and the responding are accomplished at one or more pre-designated times.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the responding comprises at least one of storing the state of the at least one status parameter and displaying the state of the at least one status parameter.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the establishing the communication link is automatically initiated by the first system.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the establishing the communication link is automatically initiated by the at least one media peripheral.

32. (Currently Amended) One or more circuits for a media processing system supporting automatic monitoring of at least one media peripheral via a communication network, the one or more circuits comprising:

one or more processors communicatively coupled to the communication network, the one or more processors operable to, at least:

automatically identify, from a first system at a first location, the at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to one or both of the first system and/or a second system, the second system at a second location;

automatically establish a communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral;

automatically determine authorization for monitoring of the at least one media peripheral using at least one digital certificate;

automatically monitor, by the first system, ~~at least one~~a plurality of status parameters of the at least one media peripheral, if the authorization is successful, wherein the plurality of status parameters comprises at least two of a battery level, an "on/off" indication, an amount of storage used, an amount of storage remaining, a "within range" indication, a software version, a model number, a serial number, and a certificate ID; and

automatically respond, by the first system, to a state of the ~~at least one~~plurality of status parameter, if the authorization is successful.

33. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one of a digital camera, a personal computer, a digital camcorder, a MP3 player, a mobile multi-media gateway, a home juke-box, and a personal digital assistant.

34. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises a processor running at least one of media capture software and media player software.

35. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the communication link is established via a wired connection.

36. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the communication link is established via a wireless connection.

37. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the ~~at least one~~plurality of status parameters ~~comprises~~consists of the following: a battery level, an "on/off" indication, an amount of storage used, an amount of storage remaining, a "within range" indication, a software version, a model number, a serial number, and a certificate ID.

38. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the at least one media peripheral is co-located with respect to the first system.

39. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the at least one media peripheral is co-located with respect to the second system.

40. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a set-top-box based media processing system.

41. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a personal computer based media processing system.

42. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a television based media processing system.

43. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the establishing, the monitoring, and the responding are accomplished periodically over time.

44. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the establishing, the monitoring, and the responding are accomplished at one or more pre-designated times.

45. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the responding comprises at least one of storing the state of the at least one status parameter and displaying the state of the at least one status parameter.

46. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the establishing the communication link is automatically initiated by the first system.

47. (Currently Amended) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the establishing the communication link is automatically initiated by the at least one media peripheral.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, comprising automatically not monitoring and not responding to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is not successful.

49. (Previously Presented) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the one or more processors are operable to automatically not monitor and not respond to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is not successful.

50. (New) The method of claim 16, comprising automatically establishing by the at least one media peripheral, the communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral, if a battery level of the at least one media peripheral drops below a threshold battery level.

51. (New) The method of claim 16, comprising automatically accessing, by the first system, said plurality of status parameters of the at least one media peripheral, prior to said monitoring.

52. (New) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the one or more processors are operable to automatically establish by the at least one media peripheral, the communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral, if a battery level of the at least one media peripheral drops below a threshold battery level.

53. (New) The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the one or more processors are operable to automatically access said plurality of status parameters of the at least one media peripheral, prior to said monitoring.